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Sponsorship of the Society for Marine Mammalogy's 19th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals

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LONG-TERM GOALS

The Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM), the world's premier association of marine mammal scientists, sought support from ONR to help bring students from around the world to their 19th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, November 27 – December 2, 2011, in Tampa, FL, with the hope that information gained and interactions at the conference would help the students to be better prepared to engage in and lead science and conservation efforts when they return home.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective was to obtain support for 30 grants of \$500 each to support student travel to the conference.

APPROACH

Grants will be provided to individual students who are making oral presentations or presenting posters at the conference. Students are selected by lottery.

WORK COMPLETED

The students have been selected and have been notified of the availability of the grants. We are awaiting confirmation of attendance from some of them. A second lottery will be held once it is known how many students will not be able to accept grants from the first round. There are more student applicants than available grants.

RESULTS

Thirty students will receive \$500 grants to attend the conference.

IMPACT/APPLICATIONS

We expect that information gained and interactions at the conference will help the students to be better prepared to engage in and lead marine mammal science and conservation efforts when they return home.